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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 14549 261751Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /136 W
----------068725 271925Z /64
R 261743Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8076
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ETRD
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25:
MANDATE FOR MTN

1. SUMMARY: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE FOR MTN DURING THEIR JULY 25 MEETING. THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO MEETING THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE SET BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, BUT NOTED THAT SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE STILL OUTSTANDING AND HARD BARGAINING LIES AHEAD. IN THE ABSENCE OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER DENIAU, STATE SECRETARY STIRN REITERATED THE FRENCH RESERVATION ON AGRICULTURE AND STATED THAT FRANCE STILL DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY THE GENEVA TEXT AS NEGOTIATED BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION WAS INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON THE COUNCIL'S PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS, IN CONSULTATION
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WITH THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE, AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE TOKYO ROUND WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE JULY 13 GENEVA FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING. IN THE BRIEF DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED,

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A NUMBER OF CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK AND THE FRENCH TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN AIR THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE GENEVA TEXT. STIRN, SPEAKING ON BACK-GROUND TO THE FRENCH PRESS AFTER THE MEETING SAID HE HAD REITERATED TO THE COUNCIL THAT FRANCE DOES NOT FEEL BOUND BY THE GENEVA TEXT SINCE IT WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE MEMBER STATES. HE MADE A POINT OF EMPHASIZING, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS NOT SAID THAT FRANCE IS CONTESTING ARTICLE 16 OF THE GATT. FRENCH OBJECTIONS, STIRN SAID, HAD BEEN EXPRESSED IN THE COREPER MEETING OF JULY 14 AND WERE NOT REMOVED BY THE BONN DECLARATION ON GATT. THIS DECLARATION WAS A COMPROMISE, IN THE FRENCH VIEW, AND COULD NOT BE INTER-PRETED AS FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE GENEVA TEXT. IN PARTICU-LAR, STIRN SAID, FRANCE IS CONTESTING ANY LIMITATION ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

3. A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN CONFIRMEDTHAT THE FRENCH HAD TAKEN THIS POSITION AND ADDED THAT NO MEMBER STATE HAD PROTESTED THE FRENCH ASSERTION THAT THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK WAS ONLY AN INTERIM REPORT. A SENIOR PERMDEL SOURCE COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE FRENCH WERE OBVIOUSLY KEEPING OPEN THEIR OPTIONS ON AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN, THEIR OBJECTIONS WERE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN LESS VOCIFEROUSLY EXPRESSED IN THE COUNCIL THAN AT BREMEN OR IN COREPER.

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4. AN IRISH SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE IRISH DELEGA-TION, WHILE NOT OBJECTING IN PRINCIPLE TO THE GENEVA TEXT, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT HAD GONE TOO FAR TOO SOON AND THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD WAIT FOR A COMMITMENT FROM THE U.S. ON "MATERIAL INJURY."
5. REPORTEDLY SOME MEMBER STATES WERE CONCERNED THAT THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING IS NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH REGARDING SELECTIVITY OF SAFEGUARD CLAUSE. THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOME COMMENT TO EFFECT THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD PRESS U.S. AND JAPAN FOR FURTHER TARIFF REDUCTIONS. HINTON

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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